

Appl. No. 10/666,004
Arndt Dated March 20, 2005
Reply to Office Action Mailed January 12, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A system for managing accounts receivable, the system comprising:

a database server for storing accounts receivable data;
an application server electrically connected with the database server for accessing and processing data stored in the database server, the application server comprising a data obtaining module for obtaining data from external systems, a sales return managing module for managing accounting operations related to sales returns, a sales discount managing module for managing accounting operations related to sales discounts, an accounts receivable managing module for managing and updating the accounts receivable data stored in the database server, and an account booking module for automatically generating accounting entries; and
a plurality of client computers electrically connected to the application server for downloading data from and uploading data to the database server.

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Claim 2 (original): The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the application server further comprises a data searching module for users to search the accounts receivable data and accounting entries data.

Claim 3 (original): The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the application server further comprises a sales invoice managing module for managing sales invoices related to accounts receivable.

Claim 4 (original): The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the application server electrically connects with a sales management system for accessing sales data stored in the sales management system and updating the accounts receivable data in the database server accordingly.

Claim 5 (original): The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the application server electrically connects with an inventory management system for accessing delivery data stored in the inventory management system.

Claim 6 (original): A method for managing accounts receivable, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a customer's purchase order data;
retrieving advance payment data related to the purchase order according to the obtained purchase order data;
obtaining a delivery message showing that the purchase order is fulfilled;
calculating an account receivable of the purchase order;
generating a sales invoice of the purchase order according to the calculated account receivable and the advance payment data; and
generating one or more accounting entries according to the calculated account receivable and the advance payment data.

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Claim 7 (original): The method as claimed in claim 6, further comprising the step of generating an invoice according to the retrieved advance payment data.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A method for managing accounts receivable, the method comprising the steps of:

confirming fulfillment of a purchase order released by a customer according to a delivery message related to the purchase order;

determining whether a sales return has occurred on the purchase order;

determining whether the purchase order has a sales discount if no sales return has occurred, and generating accounting entries for the sales discount if the purchase order has a sales discount;

calculating a discount according to discount terms recorded in the purchase order;

determining whether the customer has accepted an alternative arrangement for the purchase order if a sales return has occurred, and reconfirming fulfillment of the purchase order if the customer has accepted the alternative arrangement;

canceling one or more sales invoices related to the purchase order if the customer has not accepted the alternative arrangements;

balancing one or more accounts receivable related to the purchase order; and

generating accounting entries for the sales return.

Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (original): The method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising the step of generating a sales return certificate for the purchase order.

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Claim 11 (original): The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the delivery message is obtained from an inventory management system.